

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (b). In order to help the students from States and Union Territories which lack adequate technical education facilities, the Ministry of Human Resource Development earmarks some seats for such States and Union Territories in institutions located in other States/UTs having these facilities. Nomination against such seats are done directly by the State/UTs for whom the seats have been earmarked. In the broad guidelines issued, the Ministry has advised the States/Union Territories to give wide publicity to the criteria and procedures of selection and the mode of application among the qualified candidates and also to take into account the Statutory reservations. Some seats have also been kept at the disposal of the Ministry of External Affairs for making allocation amongst the students from developing countries.

[Translation]

Conversion of Pahelja-Bhavanathpur Line (Bihar)

*178. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the main recommendations of the survey report conducted by the Rail India Technical and Economic Services Limited (RITES) regarding gauge conversion of railway line between Pahelja and Bhavanathpur via Pipradih and Yadunathpur in Bihar, submitted in May, 1991; and

(b) the action being taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) M/s Rail India Technical and Economic Services Limited were engaged by the Government of Bihar for a feasibility study for a Broad-gauge line

for Dehri-on-Sone to Bhavanathpur (101.8 Km). As per the study report received in 1990, the estimated cost of the project in Rs. 196 crores. The rate of return is only 3.04% and thus, the Project has been found not remunerative. Consideration of the new BG line for only a part of the Project, namely for Dehri-on-Sone to Pipradih (89 km) in two phases, has been suggested by RITES for development of the area.

(b) Further action on the report is to be initiated by the State Government who ordered the study.

[English]

Disposal of Solid Wastes

*179. SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no legislation governing disposal of solid wastes, including nuclear waste;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to introduce legislation in this regard;

(c) whether the State Governments and interested organisations have been consulted in the matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof? —

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). Government have notified Hazardous Wastes (Management & Handling) Rules, 1989, under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Atomic Energy (Safe Disposal of Radio-active Wastes) Rules, 1987, under Atomic Energy Act, 1962.

(c) The State Government and concerned agencies were consulted while fram-